

Disability Awareness and Support Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

MEETING INFORMATION

Date: 06/05/2017

Time: 8:45-1:10 p.m.

Location: Maryland Hospital Association, 6820 Deerpath Rd, Elkridge, MD, 21075

The meeting had three main objectives:

- Review Disability Awareness and Inclusion Program Year One accomplishments and Year Two vision.
- Learn about the Massachusetts's Health and Disability Program History, Mission, and Products
- Participate in workgroups and identify measureable outcomes to further the work of the Disability Awareness and Support Program's Year Two workplan.

ATTENDANCE

Members:

Disability Awareness and Support Program Team:

Erin Ashinghurst, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control (CCDPC); Kristi Pier, DHMH, CCDPC; Eileen Sparling, DHMH, CCDPC; Rachel Tanenhaus, Program Coordinator, Massachusetts Health and Disability Program.

Angela Sittler, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Prevention and Health Promotion; Allysa Dittmar, Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Meg Gwaltney, ABT Associates; Jennifer Eastman, Maryland Department of Disabilities; Jim McCarthy, Maryland Department of Disabilities; Paul Galonsky, DHMH, Center for Cancer Prevention and Control; Gina Della, Therafit; Lisa Derx, Best Buddies; Wendy Farthing, Maryland Association of Community Services; Stacey Costello, DHMH, Office of Oral Health; Stephen Allen, Spirit Club; Crystal Pope, Baltimore City Health Department; Adrian Holliman, Developmental Disabilities Administration; Mat Rice, People on the Go; Katie Collins-Ihrke, Accessible Resources of Independence, Designee from Centers for Independent Living; Sara Wolfe, DHMH, Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control; Marian Vessels, Advocate/Formerly Mid-Atlantic ADA Center; Renae Kosmides, Maryland Association of Community Services

TOPICS DISCUSSED

Welcome and Introductions

Kristi Pier and Jennifer Eastman welcomed participants, reviewed meeting objectives, and introduced presenters.

Review of Year One Disability Awareness and Support Program Accomplishments and Year Two Vision

Erin Ashinghurst described the Disability and Health Programs grant and the year one program activities which included updates on capacity building, partnerships, programmatic, policy, and environmental changes. Ms. Ashinghurst provided an overview of the grant work in Year two.

Revision to mission statement was noted, which now incorporated “healthy lifestyle,” replacing “physical activity”), the new mission statement is: The Disability Access and Support Program seeks to improve the health status of people with disabilities in the community by: eliminating (programmatic and environmental) barriers to state- and community-based health promotion programs; increasing the competency of internal and external public health professionals on disability-related issues; promoting the support needs of people with disabilities to live a healthy lifestyle and be engaged in their communities, developing sustainable and mutually-beneficial community partnerships, and increasing the availability and use of health promotion resources, tools, and inclusion strategies.

Massachusetts Health and Disability Programs – Best Practices, Products, and Knowledge Gained

Rachel Tanenhaus from the Massachusetts Health and Disability Program serves as Maryland’s mentor for this grant project. Ms. Tanenhaus graciously attended the meeting, and provided a broad overview of their program, as well as products, best practices, and lessons learned from the Massachusetts’s Disability and Health Program.

- The Partnership reviewed information regarding the Massachusetts’s Disability and Health Program mission, partnerships with local Independent Living Centers and Universities, and Massachusetts Facility Assessment Tool.
- Rachel shared products from her work in Massachusetts including: Facility Assessment Tool, plan, and more. See documents linked to email below:
 - Massachusetts Facility Assessment Tool - Mammography
 - Health Needs Assessment of People with Disabilities in Massachusetts
 - Partnership Evaluation
 - List of Partnership Members
 - Sample Partnership Agenda
 - Partnership Meeting Notes
 - Strategic Plan

Workgroup Breakout Session

Public Health Skills and Competency Priorities: The workgroup reviewed the Year two vision and activities, as well as staff assessments from the first year. They discussed the available training curriculum tools and determined the workgroup structure and logistics. They discussed the need to train not only state level public health staff, but also the next audience of local health department staff.

- By July 30th, the workgroup will finalize a training plan for front line public health staff to raise competencies in the areas of disability definitions, disparities,

inclusion, and available resources. This training curriculum will be modifiable to various audiences, including state level health department staff and local health department staff.

Accessibility and Accommodations Priorities: The workgroup evaluated best practices, tools, resources and checklists across different Accessibility and Accommodation themes, to work towards drafting a golden standard accessibility tool, and to articulate goals for year two.

- By July 31st, 2017 the workgroup will develop a user-friendly manual/document for assessing public health programs for accessibility and accommodations. This tool will focus on the Governor's Customer Service Initiative.
- By February 1st, 2018 vet this document with the larger Advisory Committee.

Communications and Outreach Priorities: The workgroup reviewed and determined tasks for Year two, evaluated current communication plan models, identified needed materials, discussed the composition of the workgroup, and determined next steps.

- By June 30, 2017, the workgroup will develop a list of all relevant disability surveillance data sources. This has been accomplished.
- By June 30, 2017, the workgroup will identify two academic partners to provide guidance/technical expertise related to data surveillance, evaluation and assessment tools.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

All member should have received a follow-up email after the Advisory Committee meeting from your Workgroup to schedule the next meeting/call time. If not and would like to be included, please contact your meeting facilitator:

- Public Health Skills and Competency: Erin Ashinghurst,
Erin.Ashinghurst@maryland.gov
 - Next Meeting: July 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. via conference call.
 - Finalize Disability Awareness and Inclusion training plan and outline.
- Accessibility and Accommodations: Jennifer Eastman,
Jennifer.Eastman@maryland.gov
 - Next Meeting: July 7 via conference call.
 - Generate a develop a user-friendly manual/document for assessing public health programs for accessibility and accommodations.
- Communications and Outreach: [Eileen Sparling, Eileen.Sparling@maryland.gov](mailto:Eileen.Sparling@maryland.gov)
 - Next Meeting: July 21, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. via conference call.
 - Develop a communications and outreach plan for the project which will outline strategic messages and key audiences and identify channels for dissemination and promotion of project activity.